

WEST COAST FISHERIES AND MANAGEMENT

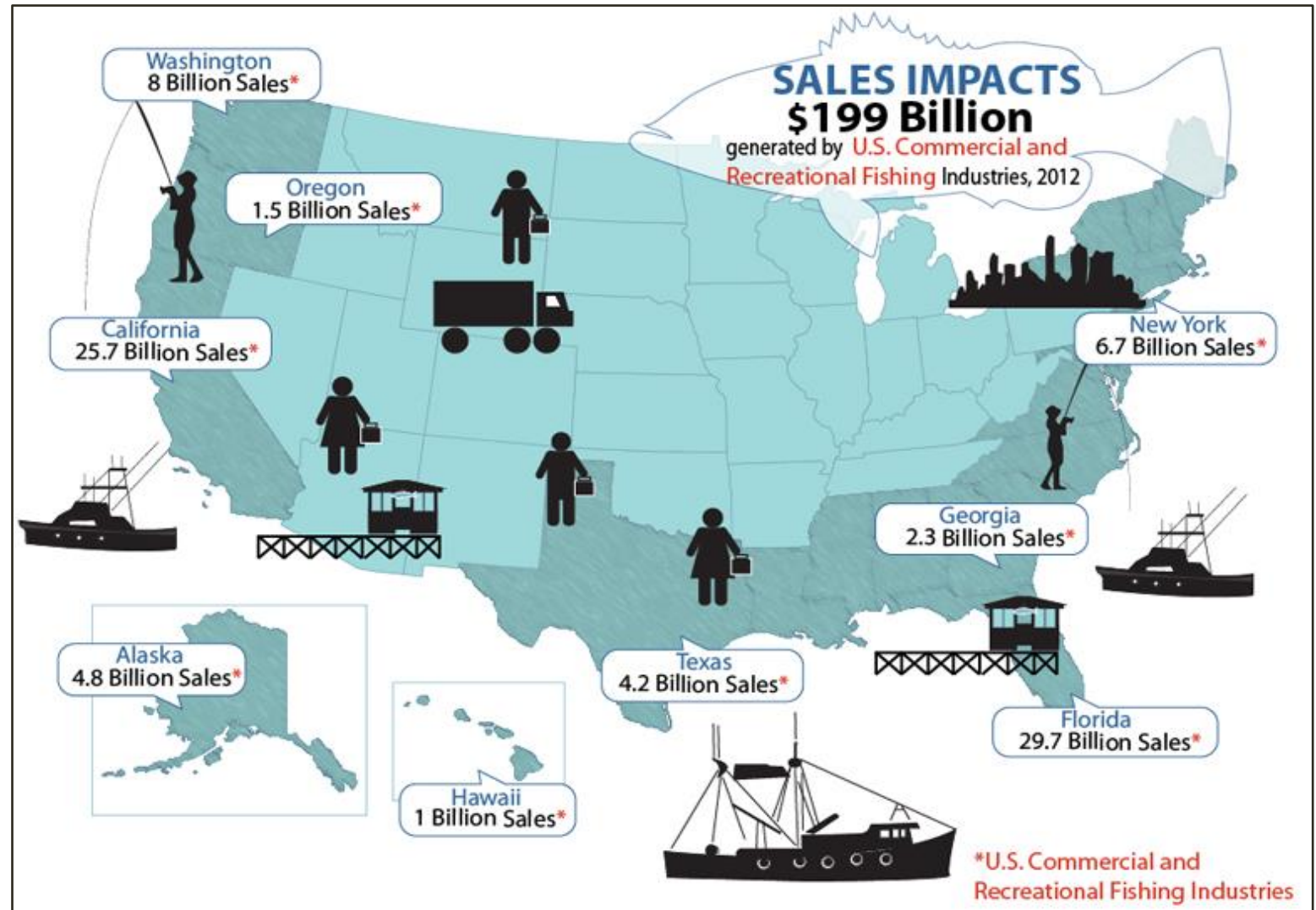


*Washington
Department of*
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Olympic Coast National Marine
Sanctuary Advisory Council
May 20, 2016
Heather Reed - WDFW
Jessi Doerpinghaus - WDFW

FISHING IS KEY TO WASHINGTON'S ECONOMY

- Washington ranks 3rd in national recreational and commercial fishing sales
- In 2012, Westport ranked 3rd in commercial fisheries landings nationwide



MANAGEMENT FORUMS AND OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS

International Pacific Halibut Commission

- **U.S. (Alaska and West Coast) and Canada**
- **Stockwide Conservation: Annual Survey and Assessment**

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

- **Groundfish – Pacific whiting, rockfish, flatfish**
- **Coastal Pelagic Species – Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel**
- **Highly Migratory Species – Tunas, sharks, swordfish**
- **Salmon**

WDFW – State Managed Fisheries

- **Dungeness crab – Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee**
- **Pink shrimp – State coordination with Oregon**

Coastal Treaty Tribes – Co-management

- **Reserved fishing rights in off-shore waters (Makah, Quileute, Hoh, Quinault)**

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT – PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Management Responsibility 3-200 Nautical Miles

14 Voting Members

- **NMFS, States of WA, OR, CA and ID, Treaty Tribes, Stakeholders**

Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the West Coast

- **Over 90 species covered**
- **Harvest Policies**
- **Multiple harvest sectors**

Advisory Bodies Provide Input to the Council

- **Groundfish Management Team (GMT): Heather Reed and Jessi Doerpinghaus**
- **Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP)**
- **Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)**
- **Enforcement Consultants (EC)**
- **Habitat Committee: Joel Kawahara**

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT – PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Biennial Management Process

- **Stock Assessments Completed in Odd-Numbered Years**
- **Scientific Review Process – Internal and External Review**
- **Harvest Specifications**
- **The SSC recommends the Over Fishing Level (OFL)**
- **The Council adopts the OFL, Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Annual Catch Limits (ACL)**
- **Three Council meeting process: November, April, June**
- **WDFW holds public meetings to develop management measures to meet conservation objectives (keep catch below ACL)**

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT – OVERVIEW

ACLs are set to allow harvest that keeps stocks at healthy levels

- **ACLs are reduced to account for tribal catch, research, incidental fisheries (e.g. pink shrimp), and exempted fishing permits (EFPs)**
- **After these off the top deductions, ACLs are further divided to sectors to allow for either targeted fishing or bycatch**

Overfished Species

- **Canary and petrale sole were declared rebuilt in 2015**
- **5 species still considered overfished (yelloweye, darkblotched, and bocaccio rockfish, Pacific Ocean perch, and cowcod) and are managed under rebuilding plans**
- **Darkblotched and bocaccio rockfish expected to be rebuilt in 2017 stock assessment process**

COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH

There are several fishing sectors and different ways of categorizing the fishing activities

- **At Sea co-ops:**
 - **Mothership processing vessels and catcher vessels**
 - **Catcher Processors**
- **Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)**
 - **Bottom trawl**
 - **Shoreside whiting**
 - **Fixed gear (i.e. using hook and line and pot/trap gears)**
 - **Midwater trawl for non-whiting species (e.g. yellowtail rockfish).**
- **Fixed Gear (mostly sablefish off of WA).**
 - **Limited Entry – primary season and trip limits**
 - **Open Access**

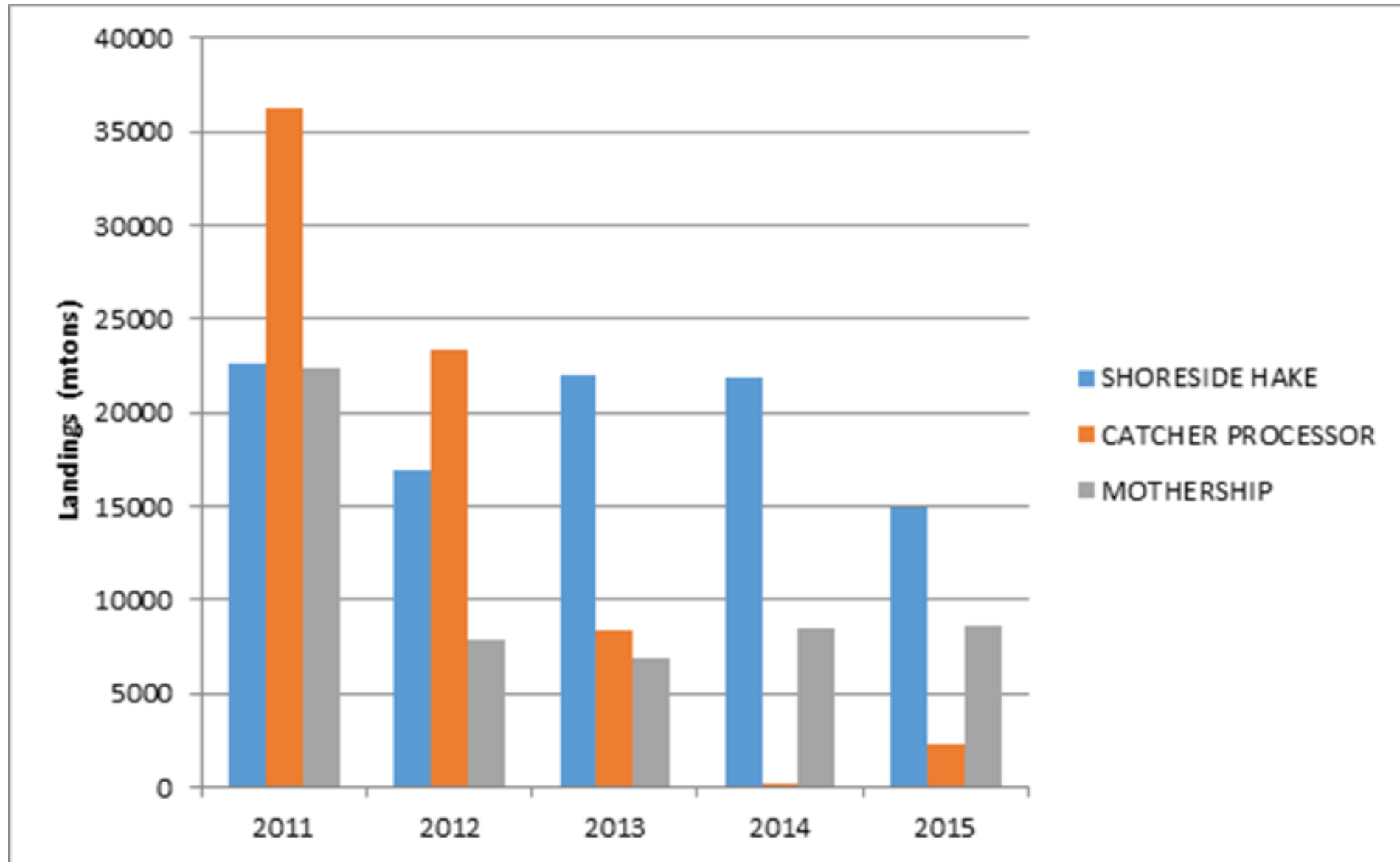
IFQ MANAGEMENT

Established in 2011

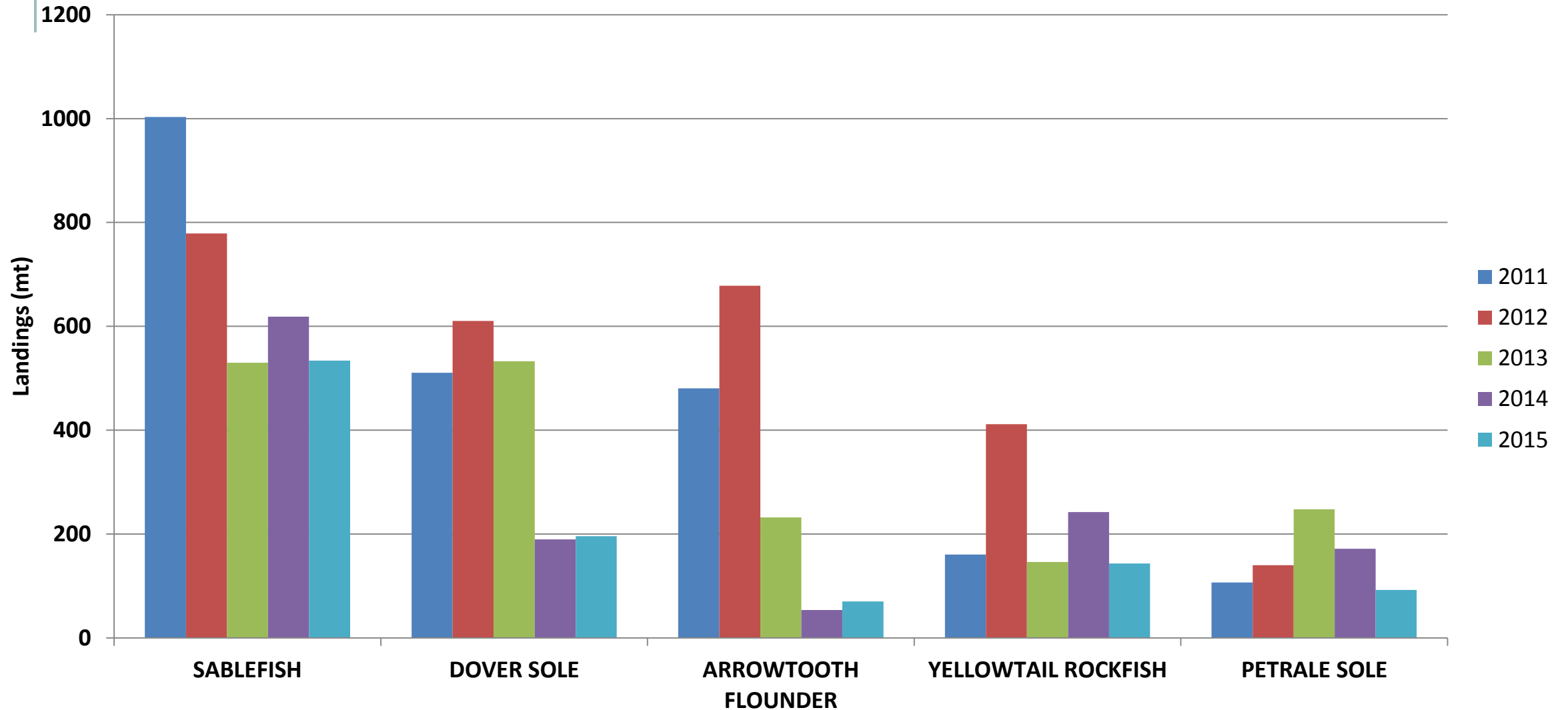
Features of the program

- **Quota pounds are tradable**
- **100 percent observer coverage (exploring electronic monitoring)**
- **Minimizes bycatch**
- **Focuses on individual accountability**
- **Allows flexibility**
 - **Fishery timing**
 - **Gear innovation**
 - **Regulatory streamlining**

COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH – PACIFIC WHITING



NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH LANDED INTO WASHINGTON



RECREATIONAL GROUND FISH

- **State regulations are adopted to conform to federal regulations or be more restrictive**
- **Year-round season for most bottomfish, but weather constrains fishing to March through October**
- **Lingcod season March or April through October**
- **Anglers primarily target rockfish and lingcod; other bottomfish include cabezon, kelp greenling, Pacific cod**
- **Regulations focus on minimizing encounters with yelloweye and canary rockfish, which are managed under rebuilding plans**
- **Regulations being considered for 2017 and 2018 will allow retention of canary rockfish**

RECREATIONAL HALIBUT

- **Annual stakeholder input opportunity**
- **Season opens in May**
- **Fishery occurs in offshore areas not safe for smaller vessels; weather in May can be prohibitive**
- **Coastal season is managed inseason to keep catch from exceeding the quota**

Fishing effort and success is high

- **North Coast and Westport: 3-4 days**
- **Columbia River**
 - **Has remained open longer, last couple of years the season closed in June**

RECREATIONAL ANGLER TRIPS (AVG 2013-2015)

Management Area	Boat Type	Halibut	Bottomfish	Salmon
Neah Bay / La Push	Charter	292	804	1,847
	Private	5,551	7,891	10,964
	Total	5,843	8,695	12,811
Westport	Charter	1,952	12,886	19,642
	Private	891	2,139	26,332
	Total	2,843	15,025	45,974
Ilwaco / Chinook	Charter	410	1,109	8,669
	Private	158	854	50,032
	Total	568	1,963	58,701

ALBACORE TUNA

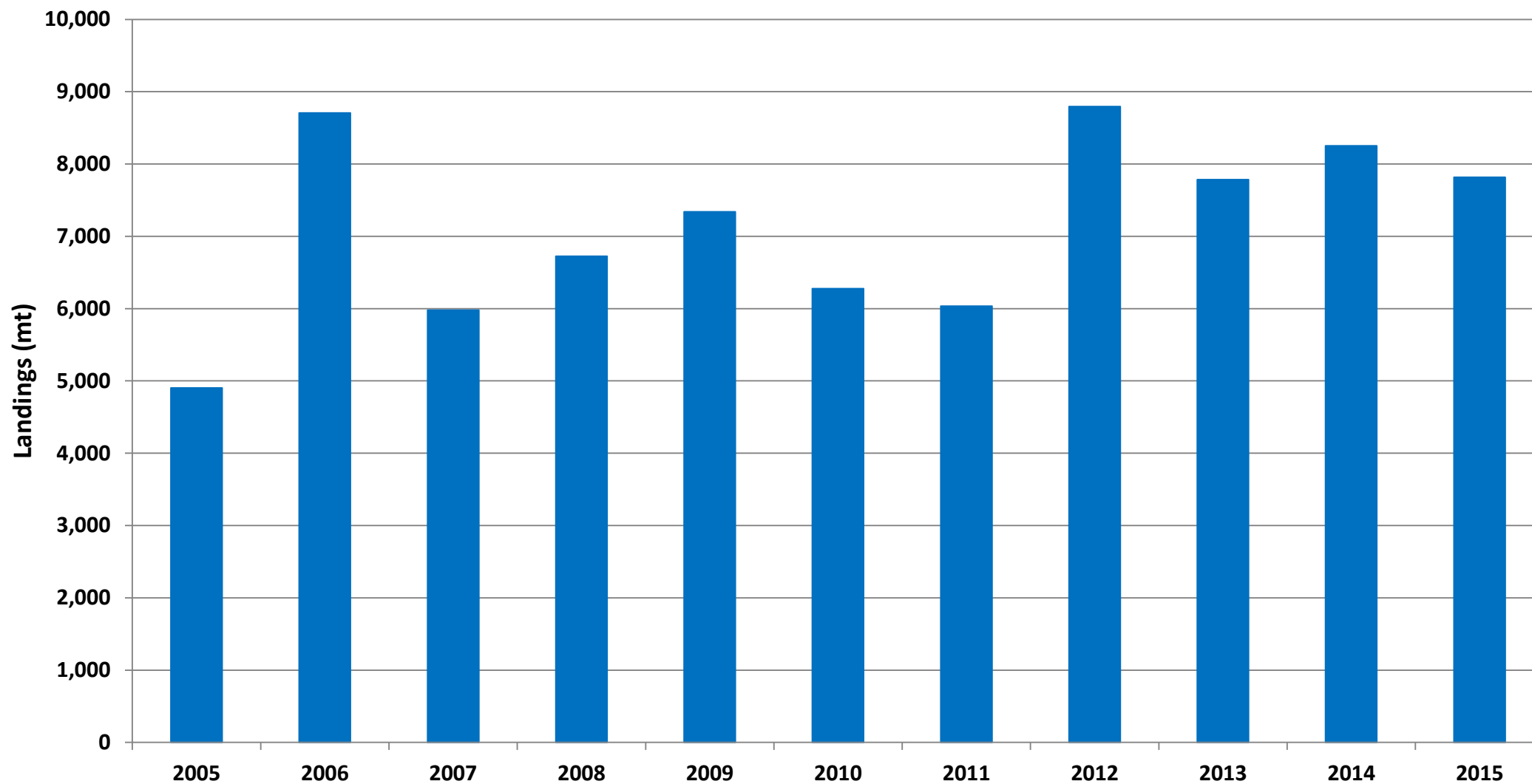
Managed by PFMC's Highly Migratory Species FMP and international agreements.

Commercial sector is made up of large, far ranging vessels and more locally based troll vessels

Recreational: charter and private boats

- **Charter licenses are limited**
- **No bag limits.**
- **Increase in popularity among private boats in recent years**

COMMERCIAL ALBACORE



COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Average Number of Licenses Sold per Year

- **Salmon Troll (Ocean): 120-131**
- **Salmon Charter (Statewide): 119-131**
- **Salmon Gillnet (Grays Harbor): 43-51**
- **Salmon Gillnet (Willapa Bay): 135-166**

Management Issues

- **State/Tribal sharing of harvest & opportunity**
- **Commercial/Recreational allocation**
- **Conservation/meeting escapement goals**

RECREATIONAL SALMON FISHING

Ocean

- **Driven by Projected Impacts to ESA-Listed Stocks**
- **Port Quotas; Inseason Monitoring; Potential Trading**
- **Mark-Selective Fisheries**

Chehalis Basin: Grays Harbor (Marine Area); Humptulips and Chehalis Rivers

- **State/Tribal Sharing with Quinault Indian Nation**
- **Chehalis Tribal Catch from State Share**
- **Commercial/Recreational Sharing**

Willapa Bay

- **Commercial/Recreational Sharing**

OTHER FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON – DUNGENESS CRAB

Coordinated West Coast Management Through Tri-State Agreement

WA has 223 Limited Entry Licenses; 190 Active

Maximum vessel length is 99 ft – vessel length for each license can only increase by 10 ft based on the length as of July 2006

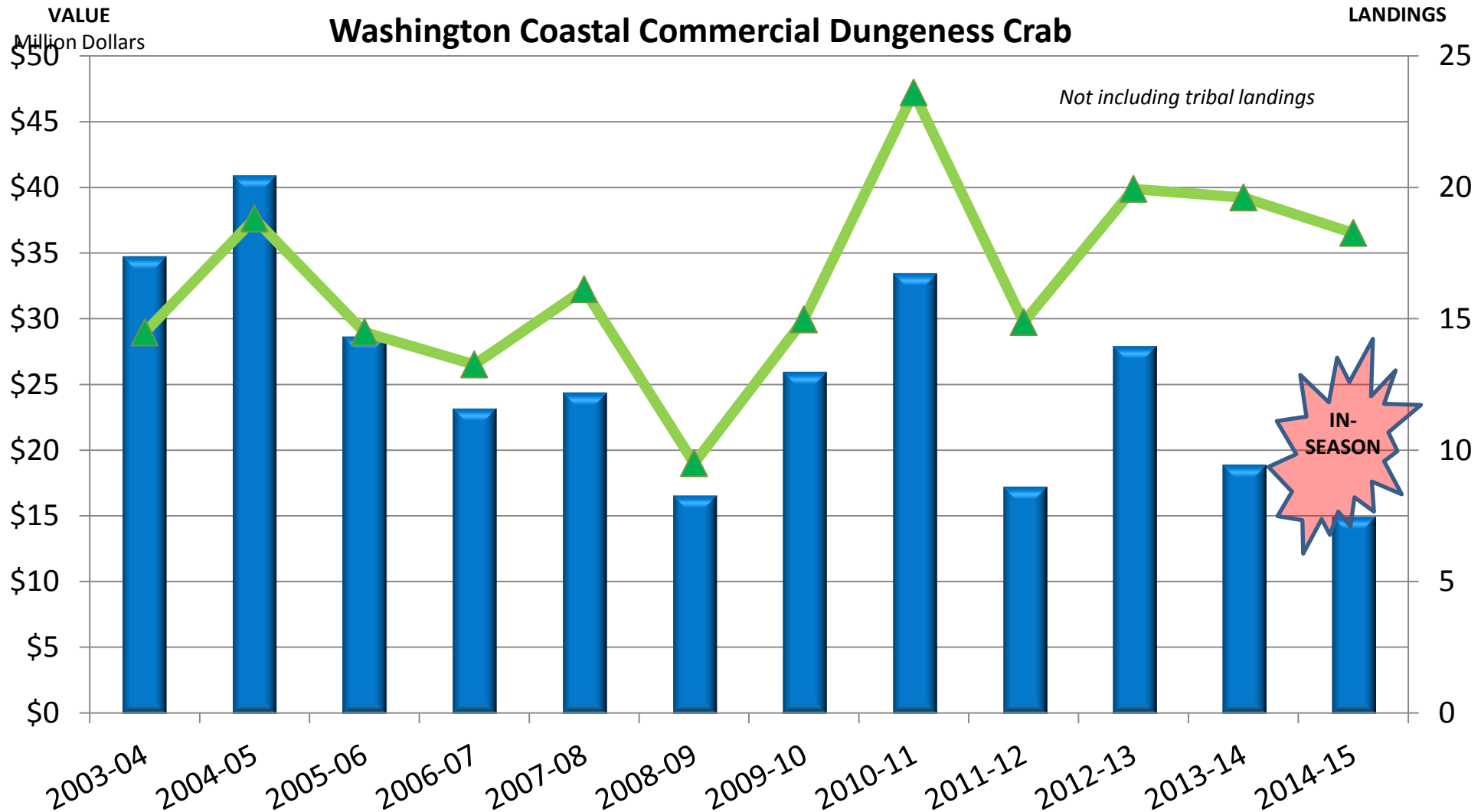
Each license is assigned a pot limit of 300 or 500 (based on historical landings)

The pot limit is enforced with buoy tags that must be on each pot

3-S Management

- **Minimum size limit**
- **Legal sized male crab only**
- **Closed during the primary male molt period (September 15 through November)**

DUNGENESS CRAB LANDINGS AND VALUE

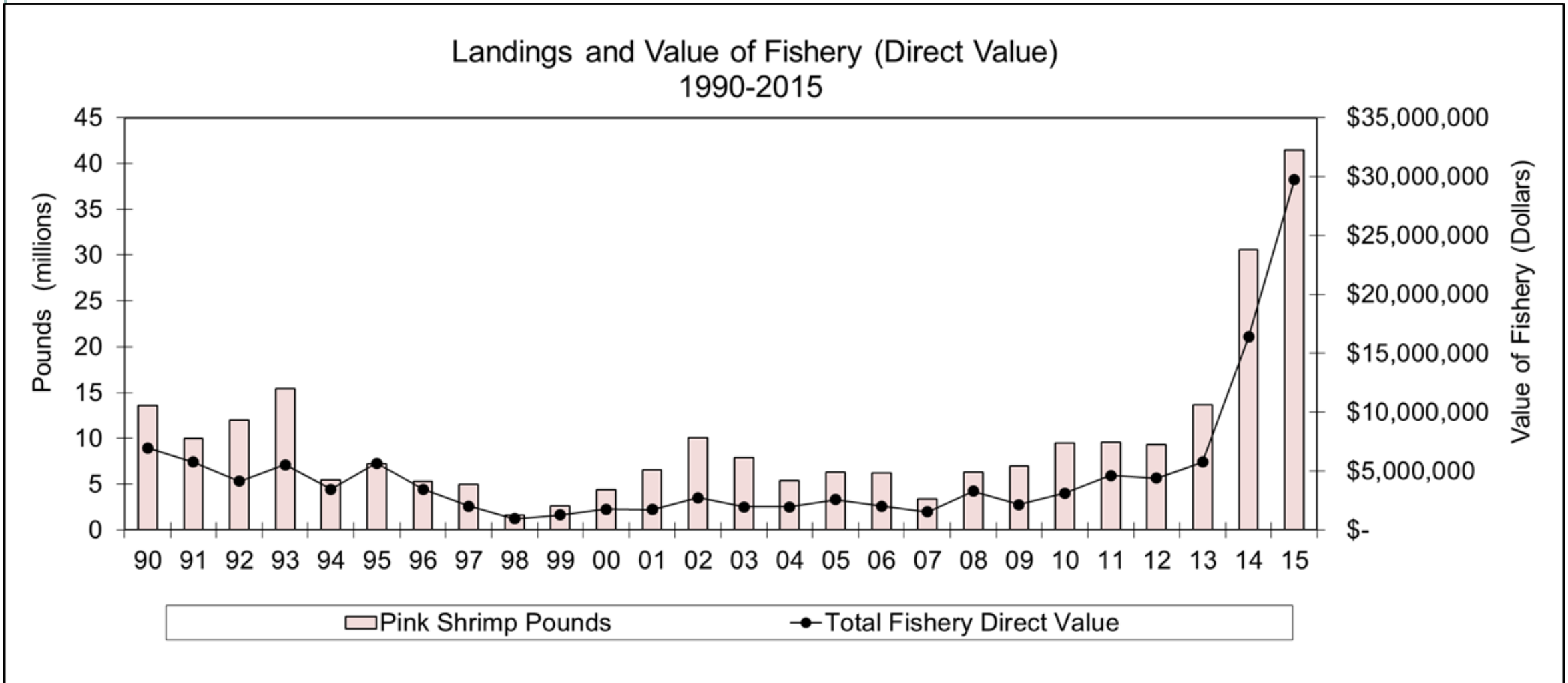


OTHER FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON – PINK SHRIMP

- **Groundfish FMP - Open Access**
- **80 Limited entry licenses**
 - **Approximately 20 active fishers**
- **WA and OR coast \approx 75 to 125 fathoms**
 - **Closed in WA state waters**
- **Fixed season: April 1 – October 31**
- **Key ports: Westport and Ilwaco**
- **Fishery stable**
 - **projected growth due to increased processing capacity at Westport in 2014**
- **Observer coverage under WCGOP; 2-yr WA state project**
- **2010 ESA Threatened Listing of Eulachon**
 - **shrimp trawl fishery deemed moderate threat to recovery**



OTHER FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON – PINK SHRIMP



Coastal Commercial Fisheries:

Average Ex-Vessel
Revenue (\$ thousands)
2010-2014

